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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Fuerstenwalde

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

15 December 1953

REFERENCES

2

PAGES

REMARKS

1. On 22 November, the Pioneer Kaserne in Fuerstenwalde was occupied by about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulettes including some with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Small groups of leaving and arriving soldiers were noticed at the installation from 12 to 22 November. Small groups of soldiers were seen arriving on the direction of Brandenburg. They marched from the railroad station. Light machine guns and submachine guns and carbines entered the installation on 12 November coming from the direction of Braunsdorfer Strasse. About 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulettes left the installation toward Braunsdorfer Strasse on 22 November. No training activity was observed from 12 to 22 November. Motor vehicles seen at the installation.

2. On 12 November, the barracks installation at Braunsdorfer Strasse was occupied by about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulettes including some with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Small groups of leaving and arriving soldiers were noticed at the installation during the period of observation. Between 250 and 300 soldiers were lined up on 13 and 20 November. On 21 November, about 30 soldiers carrying baggage who had arrived on the regular train from Frankfurt/Oder entered the installation. Carbine and pistol fire was heard from the Sprae target ranges.

3. [redacted] the term of service had been extended for two additional years for all officers at the post whose term of service had expired. The officers were allegedly promised that their families could join them in Germany. These families were scheduled to be billeted in the houses on Sembritzky Strasse and Wobringk Strasse which had been requisitioned in 1945 and had since been vacant. The order was received by the officers with mixed feelings. 2

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4. On 17 November, 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black caps including about 50 percent with tank insignia were unloaded at the Fuerstenwalde railroad station. They carried baggage and, organized into small groups of about 30 men, left the station toward the interior of the town.

5. On 11 November, 1 tank arrived at the Fuerstenwalde railroad station for Unit [redacted]. Loading operations observed at the Fuerstenwalde railroad station included:

11 November. Personnel for Unit Matkov was loaded onto nine converted boxcars and dispatched toward Bad Freienwalde.

14 November. Personnel for Unit Matkov was loaded onto five converted boxcars and dispatched toward Bad Freienwalde.

2 November. Personnel was loaded onto four converted boxcars and dispatched to Bad Freienwalde.

5 and 8 November. Personnel was entrained on each two converted boxcars to Bad Freienwalde. 3

1. [redacted] Comment. As compared with the last observations [redacted] on 11 November, the estimated occupation strengths at the two barracks installations had considerably increased ^{prior to} 22 November. [redacted] Since the two other posts of the 7th Gds Meck Div, namely Frankfurt/Oder and Beeskow, were probably occupied to capacity and the Lieberose training grounds was simultaneously occupied only by a guard detail, there is reason for believing that, except for one mechanized regiment in East Berlin, all elements of the division were at their quarters. The distribution of units to the barracks installations in Frankfurt/Oder and Fuerstenwalde is, however, still unclear in a number of cases. Nor is it definitely clear which mechanized regiment is presently stationed in Berlin-Karlshorst.

2. [redacted] Comment. The information on the extension of the term of service for officers in East Germany confirms information by Lieutenant N. Vase who had stated in Eberswalde that the term of service had been extended from 3 to 5 years.

3. [redacted]